THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) There is no such policy.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

**Progress made in Evaluation and Negotiations with the Bidders to Develop Oil Fields**

1779. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2938 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th August, 1993 and state:

(a) what are the details of the progress so far made in the evaluation and negotiations with the bidders of 117 bids received from Indian and foreign companies for the exploration and development of medium and small-sized oil fields;

(b) whether any contracts have so far been finalised after completing negotiations with the bidders, if so, what are the details in this regard in respect of each case; and

(c) what are the details of progress relating to each medium and small-sized oil fields in respect of which contracts have so far been awarded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Government have approved the finalisation of contracts for the following six small-sized fields:

(i) Bakrol (ii) Lohar (iii) Bhandut (iv) Cambay (v) Matar (vi) Sabarmati. The contracts with the parties are yet to be signed.

**More Gas from Off-Shore Tapti**

1780. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMAN BHAI PETEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more gas is likely to be available from off-shore Tapti structure than orginally anticiated;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of gas likely to be produced form Tapti; and

(c) Whether it is costlier to bring Tapti gas to Hazira than to pipeway in Saurashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The projected plateau production from Mid and South Tapti fields is 4.03 $mm^3/_d$.

(c) The decision to bring gas from mid Tapti and South Tapti fields to Hazira has been taken to meet the commitments already made ex-Hazira and along the HRJ pipeline.

**Putting out of Foreign Oil Companies from Fourth round of Bidding**

1781. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreign oil companies which succeeded in the fourth round of bidding for oil exploration in the country have pulled out;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is its likely impact on the oil exploration programme; and

(d) what further steps are proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Government